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Classical Conference in connection with the annual meetings of the Association of Colleges etc. There is no doubt that such a permanent organisation of the Conference, which has now fully demonstrated its value to the interests of the teaching of Classics deserves the warm support of all teachers of Latin and Greek.

One more feature of the Meeting will prove of interest to our readers. The general meeting of the morning was taken up with a discussion of: The Modern Languages in the Secondary Schools and Colleges, led by Dr Julius Sachs of New York City. We teachers of the Classics might learn from that discussion a more wholesome view of the aim of our work, inasmuch as the point emphasized by all speakers was this, that the teaching of any language, whether living or "dead" has value only insofar as it leads to an appreciation of the life and culture of the nation speaking it. But it was not this which we wanted to tell our readers so much as the pleasant surprise for the adherents of the study of the Classics by the warm esteem for this study expressed by all participants in the discussion. Altogether, the "Classical Horizon" seems about to brighten, at least, one could distinctly notice that famous silver lining to the clouds which for so long have been overhanging our sky.

### **Professor Ettore Pais at Columbia University**

On Friday, November 4th, Professor Ettore Pais, of the University of Naples, and Director of the Museo Nazionale, spoke in Columbia University on the "Saxum Tarpeium". The gist of his speech, which was too technical for a detailed report in the Leaflet, was as follows:

The *rupes Tarpeia* was not situated, as scholars have assumed, on the SE side of the Capitoline hill, but on the NW side, near the *Scalae Gemoniae*, and over the *Tullianum*. This identification seems to be assured by an inscription, recently found, which mentions the *Mons Tarpeius*. The Lecturer then tried to prove, by a comparison of passages in Livy,

Lydos, Suidas, and Ioannes Antiochenos, all of whose testimony probably goes back to some old Annalist, like Hemina, that hurling the criminal from the Tarpeian cliff was the oldest legal punishment for high treason (*perduellium*); that only later, when the authority of the state had collided with the thitherto undisputed authority of the *pater familias*, this punishment was extended to other crimes, as that of *parricidium* etc. Later, with the softening of legal custom, the *perduellium* was exempted from this class of crimes, and exile substituted for the older capital punishment. Old tradition, as the Professor also tried to prove, ascribed the introduction of all kinds of torture and cruel capital punishment to Tarquinius Superbus, and it is not improbable that we have in Tarpeius-Tarpeia only a variant of Tarquinius-Tarquinia.

The oldest tradition, Professor Pais said, knew of no other punishment for *perduellium* than the criminal's death, and wherever, as in the case of Manlius Capitolinus, the old tradition has been preserved, such death is mentioned. Later tradition changed such execution from official acts to the voluntary vengeance of patriotic citizens. This is especially true in the case of Spurius Maelius and Servilius Ahala. The older legend made Ahala an official (*magister equitum*), while the later had it that he was a *homo privatus*. In this conflict Mr Pais sees a reminiscence of the clash between the native, strictly legal view, which looked upon all attempts to usurp the power of the *Populus Romanus* as *perduellium*, and a "modern" view, developed under the influence of Greek philosophy, which thought that it was the right, and the privilege, of any private citizen to slay the usurping tyrant.

### **Meeting of The Archaeological Institute of America**

The sixth Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America will be held in Boston on the afternoons of December 28th, 29th and 30th; beginning at 3 P M each day. A number of interesting papers on Classical Archaeology and Epigraphy will be presented. Teachers who intend spending their Christmas vacation in the vicinity of the place of meeting may find this a welcome opportunity to renew their acquaintance with Archaeology.